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Terms	Documents
L1 and L3	1

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<u>Set</u>	<u>Hit Count</u>	<u>Set</u>
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DB=PGPB,USPT; THES=ASSIGNEE; PLUR=YES; OP=OR		
<u>L4</u> 11 and L3	1	<u>L4</u>
<u>L3</u> L2 and (categor\$ or class\$)	9	<u>L3</u>
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<u>L1</u> 6609106.pn.	1	<u>L1</u>

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[First Hit](#) [Fwd Refs](#)[Previous Doc](#) [Next Doc](#) [Go to Doc#](#)
 [Generate Collection](#) [Print](#)

L7: Entry 1 of 8

File: USPT

Aug 19, 2003

US-PAT-NO: 6609106

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6609106 B1

TITLE: System and method for providing electronic ~~multi-merchant gift registry~~
 services over a distributed network

DATE-ISSUED: August 19, 2003

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
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APPL-NO: 09/ 307166 [PALM]

DATE FILED: May 7, 1999

INT-CL: [07] G06 F 17/60

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/26; 705/27, 705/14

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/26; 705/14, 705/27

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 705/26, 705/27, 705/14

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

 [Search Selected](#) [Search All](#) [Clear](#)

PAT-NO	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
<u>5113496</u>	May 1992	McCalley et al.	710/305
<u>5754981</u>	May 1998	Veeneman et al.	705/26
<u>5774874</u>	June 1998	Veeneman et al.	705/27
<u>5826039</u>	October 1998	Jones	709/206
<u>5895468</u>	April 1999	Whitmyer, Jr.	707/10
<u>5898594</u>	April 1999	Leason et al.	700/231
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<u>5970474</u>	October 1999	LeRoy et al.	705/27
<u>6016504</u>	January 2000	Arnold et al.	709/200
<u>6094681</u>	July 2000	Schaffer et al.	709/224
<u>6128663</u>	October 2000	Thomas	709/228

<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>6360254</u>	March 2002	Linden et al.	709/219
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>6393490</u>	May 2002	Stiles et al.	709/313
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>2002/0010623</u>	January 2002	McCollom et al.	705/14

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FOREIGN-PAT-NO
WO 94/27226

PUBN-DATE
 November 1994

COUNTRY
 WO

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Anon., "Retailers Say 'I Do' to Wedding Web Site," The Wall Street Journal, vol. CCXXXIV, No. 111, p. B9, Jun. 9, 1999.

ART-UNIT: 3625

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Rosen; Nicholas David

ABSTRACT:

An online Gift Registry Service provides registration of information for a gift registrant and allows access to the registry by potential gift giver users. In addition, users can tag items of interest at participating Service Provider (SP) sites and the SP sites will register these items with the Gift Registry Service on the user's behalf. It further provides a streamlined checkout process for

purchasing these gift items with the registered SP sites (e.g. World Wide Web sites) over a distributed public network. Users and Service Providers (SP) initially register with the Gift Registry Service and are provided additional functionality. For users, a reminder service is provided to notify individuals automatically upon the trigger of certain events, such as important dates or product sales from online merchants. In addition, there are various occasion planning services available such as distribution lists, discussion groups, and other related resources for multiple events including weddings, baby showers, etc. These other resources include sending out announcements, reserving halls, and contracting services of related businesses for the occasion. A distinct advantage of this system is that users can perform all the planning for the event online in the comfort of their home or office. Service Providers on the other hand, can register system notification messages to be triggered on pre-determined events. In addition, Service Providers can obtain marketing information to tailor their products and services.

19 Claims, 44 Drawing figures

[Previous Doc](#) [Next Doc](#) [Go to Doc#](#)

[First Hit](#) [Fwd Refs](#)[Previous Doc](#) [Next Doc](#) [Go to Doc#](#) [Generate Collection](#) [Print](#)

L7: Entry 1 of 8

File: USPT

Aug 19, 2003

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6609106 B1

TITLE: System and method for providing electronic multi-merchant gift registry services over a distributed network

Application Filing Date (1):
19990507Detailed Description Text (1):

REFERENCE NUMERALS IN DRAWINGS 40 Internet (Or Other Public Network) 50 User Computer 52 Client Application 60 SP Site 62 Server Application 64 Local "Wish" List Database 66 Gift Purchase Database 68 Gift Registration Agent 70 Gift Registry Site 71 User Database 72 SP Database 73 Occasion Database 74 Gift Registrar 76 Centralized "Wish" List Database 77 Reminder Database 78 Notification Database 80 User/SP Locates Gift Registry Site 82 User/SP Makes a Request to Register 84 Determine if User or SP is registering? 90 Gift Registry Displays User Registration Form 92 User Provides Profile Information and Desired Authentication Information 94 Gift Registry site assigns Unique Identifier for the Registrant 96 Gift Registry sends E-Mail Confirmation of Registration to User 100 Gift Registry Displays SP Registration Form 102 SP Provides Profile Information and Desired Authentication Information 104 Gift Registry site assigns Unique Identifier for the SP 106 Gift Registry sends Email Confirmation of Registration to SP Contact 110 User Locates SP Site 112 User Tags Items of Interest 114 User Requests SP Site to Transfer Items of Interest to Gift Registry site 116 SP Site Displays Form for Gift Registry Information 118 User Provides Gift Registry Information 120 SP Site Stores Gift Registration Information for later sending to Gift Registry site 130 User access their Secured Profile 132 User chooses to add an Item to their "Wish" List 134 Gift Registry Site Provides a Form For Adding an Item to the User's "Wish" List 136 User Provides Item Information to Add to Their "Wish" List 138 Gift Registry Site Stores Item Information in the Centralized "Wish" List Database 140 Determine if additional items to register? 142 End Gift Registration Process 150 User Chooses to add a Reminder to their Profile 152 Gift Registry Site Provides a Form for adding a Reminder 154 User Provides Reminder Information to add to their Profile 156 Gift Registry Site Stores Reminder Information with the User's Profile 158 Determine if more Reminder to Register? 159 End Reminder Registration Process 160 Gift Registry System Checks 1st Record in Reminder Database 162 Determine if the Appropriate Event has Triggered? 164 Initialize # of Attempts to Zero 166 Notify User 168 Determine if Notification was Successful? 170 Add 1 to # of Attempts 172 Determine if less than 3 Attempts? 174 Write Notification to Error Log 176 Determine if there are more ReminderS? 178 Gift Registry System Checks Next Reminder 180 End Notification Process 190 User Receives Reminder and Clicks on Specified Link if Given 192 Gift Registry Site Displays Appropriate Information Related to Reminder 194 User Chooses Preferred Reseller and is Re-directed to appropriate SP Site 196 User Chooses Alternate Reseller and is Re-directed to appropriate SP Site 198 Gift Registry Site Transfers Gift Purchase Information 200 SP Site Pre-populates the Checkout Form 202 User Purchases Registered Gift 204 SP Stores Gift Purchase Information for Later Sending to Gift Registry Site 210 User Locates Desired Gift Registrant 212 User Locates Desired Registered Occasion 214 User Identifies Criteria to Filter Gift Registrant's "Wish" List 216 Gift Registry Site Displays the Appropriate "Wish" List Items 218 User Selects Item of Interest and is Shown

More Detailed Information 220 SP Accesses Their Secured Profile 222 SP Chooses to View Marketing Statistics 224 Gift Registry Site Provides a Marketing Statistics Page 226 SP Selects Marketing Report Type 228 Gift Registry Site Displays Selected Marketing Report 230 SP Site Establishes Communication Link with Online Gift Registry Site 232 SP Site Sends Gift Registration Package to Online Gift Registry Site 234 SP Site Sends Gift Purchase Package to Online Gift Registry Site 236 Gift Registry Site Sends Acknowledgement of Receipt to SP Site 238 SP Registers Notification Event 240 Gift Registry Site Sends Notification Event on Trigger 242 SP Registers "Sale" Event 244 Gift Registry Site Notifies Interested Registrants of "Sale" Event 250 User Registration Link 255 Merchant Registration Link 260 Log On Link 265 Choose a Gift for Someone Link 270 View Registered Occasion Link 275 Domain Drop-down Menu 280 State Drop-down Menu 285 Country Drop-down Menu 290 User Registration Reset Button 295 User Registration Submit Button 300 Home Page Link 305 System Communication Password Edit Box 310 SP Registration Reset Button 315 SP Registration Submit Button 320 Cancel Authentication Button 325 Submit Authentication Button 330 E-Mail Password Button 335 User Profile Maintenance Link 340 User Reminders Link 345 User Occasion Registration Link 350 User "Wish" List Maintenance Link 355 User Discussion Groups Link 360 SP Profile Maintenance Link 365 SP Notification Events Link 370 SP Marketing Statistics Link 375 SP Discussion Groups Link 380 User Profile Maintenance Reset Button 385 User Profile Maintenance Submit Button 390 SP Profile Maintenance Reset Button 395 SP Profile Maintenance Submit Button 400 Event Type Drop-down Menu 405 Month Drop-down Menu 410 Day Drop-down Menu 415 Year Drop-down Menu 420 Event Description Edit Box 425 Save Reminders Button 430 Notification Method Type Drop-down Menu 435 Event Type Drop-down Menu 440 Condition Type Drop-down Menu 445 Condition Value Edit Box 450 Item Category Drop-down Menu 455 Item Name Filter Edit Box 460 Item UPC Filter Edit Box 465 Preferred Reseller Filter Checkbox 470 SP Notification Submit Button 475 Event Distribution List Section 480 Add Distribution List Button 485 Delete Distribution List Button 490 Modify Distribution List Button 495 Send Notifications Button 500 Gift Registration List Box 505 Add Gift Item Button 510 Modify Gift Item Button 515 Delete Gift Item Button 520 Expand Outline Arrow 525 Collapse Outline Arrow 530 Gift Registrant ID Edit Box 535 Gift Recipient Search Method Radio Group 540 Gift Recipient Search Button 545 Try Gift Recipient Search Again Button 550 Return to Home Button 555 Show Wish List Button 560 Item Details Button 565 Purchase Item Button 570 Find Alternate Reseller Button 575 Recommend Alternate Gift Button 580 Item Name/Description 585 Return to Registrant's "Wish" List Button 590 Item Quantity Edit Box 95 Shipping Method Drop-down Menu 600 Recalculate Basket Button 605 Credit Card Type Drop-down Menu 610 Credit Card Expiration Month Drop-down Menu 615 Credit Card Expiration Year Drop-down Menu 620 Credit Card Name Edit Box 625 Credit Card Number Edit Box 630 Submit Order Button 635 Add to My Basket Button 640 Add to My "Wish" List Button 645 Transfer My "Wish" List Items Button 650 Gift Registry Promotion Link 655 Gift Registry ID Edit Box 660 Reseller Register "Wish" List Button 665 E-Mail Address Edit Box 670 Look up Gift Registry ID Button 675 Associated Last Name Edit Box 680 City Edit Box 685 Find Occasion Button

Detailed Description Text (106):

With regards to FIG. 13, if the Choose a Gift for Someone link 265 is selected, then the User is shown the Gift Recipient Selection Page FIG. 30. From this page, the visitor is presented with two options for selecting the appropriate gift registrant that they would like to make a purchase for. If the visitor already knows the Gift Registrant's ID they may enter it in the Gift Registrant ID Edit Box 530 and select the appropriate radio button of the Gift Recipient Search Method Radio Group 535. Otherwise, they select the other radio button and enter name and address information. Either way, upon clicking the Gift Recipient Search Button 540, the system will look for matches in the User Database 71.

Current US Original Classification (1):

705/26

Current US Cross Reference Classification (1):

705/14

Current US Cross Reference Classification (2):

705/27

CLAIMS:

9. The system of claim 1, comprising means for enabling users to register major events of multiple types, and be provided event services, the event services comprising the registration of event-specific gift desires, distribution lists, discussion groups, or other related resources.

[Previous Doc](#)

[Next Doc](#)

[Go to Doc#](#)

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L4: Entry 1 of 1

File: USPT

Aug 19, 2003

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6609106 B1

TITLE: System and method for providing electronic multi-merchant gift registry services over a distributed network

Brief Summary Text (19):

The benefit to the gift-giver or purchaser is that they have a wider selection of items and SPs to choose from. In addition, they can choose to be shown items in a given price range or category on the gift-receiver's "Wish" list. Thus they are not limited to a single merchant and may shop for a comparable item or even the same item at a reduced cost at a different merchant than the preferred reseller. Another major benefit to the purchaser is that of convenience and ease of use. From the comfort of their own home, they can access the system, find a desired item to purchase, and place an order with a participating reseller through a computer system in a very short amount of time as opposed to going to a retail establishment, waiting in line, and purchasing the item. Thus there is a significant time savings.

Detailed Description Text (1):

REFERENCE NUMERALS IN DRAWINGS 40 Internet (Or Other Public Network) 50 User Computer 52 Client Application 60 SP Site 62 Server Application 64 Local "Wish" List Database 66 Gift Purchase Database 68 Gift Registration Agent 70 Gift Registry Site 71 User Database 72 SP Database 73 Occasion Database 74 Gift Registrar 76 Centralized "Wish" List Database 77 Reminder Database 78 Notification Database 80 User/SP Locates Gift Registry Site 82 User/SP Makes a Request to Register 84 Determine if User or SP is registering? 90 Gift Registry Displays User Registration Form 92 User Provides Profile Information and Desired Authentication Information 94 Gift Registry site assigns Unique Identifier for the Registrant 96 Gift Registry sends E-Mail Confirmation of Registration to User 100 Gift Registry Displays SP Registration Form 102 SP Provides Profile Information and Desired Authentication Information 104 Gift Registry site assigns Unique Identifier for the SP 106 Gift Registry sends Email Confirmation of Registration to SP Contact 110 User Locates SP Site 112 User Tags Items of Interest 114 User Requests SP Site to Transfer Items of Interest to Gift Registry site 116 SP Site Displays Form for Gift Registry Information 118 User Provides Gift Registry Information 120 SP Site Stores Gift Registration Information for later sending to Gift Registry site 130 User access their Secured Profile 132 User chooses to add an Item to their "Wish" List 134 Gift Registry Site Provides a Form For Adding an Item to the User's "Wish" List 136 User Provides Item Information to Add to Their "Wish" List 138 Gift Registry Site Stores Item Information in the Centralized "Wish" List Database 140 Determine if additional items to register? 142 End Gift Registration Process 150 User Chooses to add a Reminder to their Profile 152 Gift Registry Site Provides a Form for adding a Reminder 154 User Provides Reminder Information to add to their Profile 156 Gift Registry Site Stores Reminder Information with the User's Profile 158 Determine if more Reminder to Register? 159 End Reminder Registration Process 160 Gift Registry System Checks 1st Record in Reminder Database 162 Determine if the Appropriate Event has Triggered? 164 Initialize # of Attempts to Zero 166 Notify User 168 Determine if Notification was Successful? 170 Add 1 to # of Attempts 172 Determine if less than 3 Attempts? 174 Write Notification to Error Log 176 Determine if there

are more ReminderS? 178 Gift Registry System Checks Next Reminder 180 End Notification Process 190 User Receives Reminder and Clicks on Specified Link if Given 192 Gift Registry Site Displays Appropriate Information Related to Reminder 194 User Chooses Preferred Reseller and is Re-directed to appropriate SP Site 196 User Chooses Alternate Reseller and is Re-directed to appropriate SP Site 198 Gift Registry Site Transfers Gift Purchase Information 200 SP Site Pre-populates the Checkout Form 202 User Purchases Registered Gift 204 SP Stores Gift Purchase Information for Later Sending to Gift Registry Site 210 User Locates Desired Gift Registrant 212 User Locates Desired Registered Occasion 214 User Identifies Criteria to Filter Gift Registrant's "Wish" List 216 Gift Registry Site Displays the Appropriate "Wish" List Items 218 User Selects Item of Interest and is Shown More Detailed Information 220 SP Accesses Their Secured Profile 222 SP Chooses to View Marketing Statistics 224 Gift Registry Site Provides a Marketing Statistics Page 226 SP Selects Marketing Report Type 228 Gift Registry Site Displays Selected Marketing Report 230 SP Site Establishes Communication Link with Online Gift Registry Site 232 SP Site Sends Gift Registration Package to Online Gift Registry Site 234 SP Site Sends Gift Purchase Package to Online Gift Registry Site 236 Gift Registry Site Sends Acknowledgement of Receipt to SP Site 238 SP Registers Notification Event 240 Gift Registry Site Sends Notification Event on Trigger 242 SP Registers "Sale" Event 244 Gift Registry Site Notifies Interested Registrants of "Sale" Event 250 User Registration Link 255 Merchant Registration Link 260 Log On Link 265 Choose a Gift for Someone Link 270 View Registered Occasion Link 275 Domain Drop-down Menu 280 State Drop-down Menu 285 Country Drop-down Menu 290 User Registration Reset Button 295 User Registration Submit Button 300 Home Page Link 305 System Communication Password Edit Box 310 SP Registration Reset Button 315 SP Registration Submit Button 320 Cancel Authentication Button 325 Submit Authentication Button 330 E-Mail Password Button 335 User Profile Maintenance Link 340 User Reminders Link 345 User Occasion Registration Link 350 User "Wish" List Maintenance Link 355 User Discussion Groups Link 360 SP Profile Maintenance Link 365 SP Notification Events Link 370 SP Marketing Statistics Link 375 SP Discussion Groups Link 380 User Profile Maintenance Reset Button 385 User Profile Maintenance Submit Button 390 SP Profile Maintenance Reset Button 395 SP Profile Maintenance Submit Button 400 Event Type Drop-down Menu 405 Month Drop-down Menu 410 Day Drop-down Menu 415 Year Drop-down Menu 420 Event Description Edit Box 425 Save Reminders Button 430 Notification Method Type Drop-down Menu 435 Event Type Drop-down Menu 440 Condition Type Drop-down Menu 445 Condition Value Edit Box 450 Item Category Drop-down Menu 455 Item Name Filter Edit Box 460 Item UPC Filter Edit Box 465 Preferred Reseller Filter Checkbox 470 SP Notification Submit Button 475 Event Distribution List Section 480 Add Distribution List Button 485 Delete Distribution List Button 490 Modify Distribution List Button 495 Send Notifications Button 500 Gift Registration List Box 505 Add Gift Item Button 510 Modify Gift Item Button 515 Delete Gift Item Button 520 Expand Outline Arrow 525 Collapse Outline Arrow 530 Gift Registrant ID Edit Box 535 Gift Recipient Search Method Radio Group 540 Gift Recipient Search Button 545 Try Gift Recipient Search Again Button 550 Return to Home Button 555 Show Wish List Button 560 Item Details Button 565 Purchase Item Button 570 Find Alternate Reseller Button 575 Recommend Alternate Gift Button 580 Item Name/Description 585 Return to Registrant's "Wish" List Button 590 Item Quantity Edit Box 95 Shipping Method Drop-down Menu 600 Recalculate Basket Button 605 Credit Card Type Drop-down Menu 610 Credit Card Expiration Month Drop-down Menu 615 Credit Card Expiration Year Drop-down Menu 620 Credit Card Name Edit Box 625 Credit Card Number Edit Box 630 Submit Order Button 635 Add to My Basket Button 640 Add to My "Wish" List Button 645 Transfer My "Wish" List Items Button 650 Gift Registry Promotion Link 655 Gift Registry ID Edit Box 660 Reseller Register "Wish" List Button 665 E-Mail Address Edit Box 670 Look up Gift Registry ID Button 675 Associated Last Name Edit Box 680 City Edit Box 685 Find Occasion Button

Detailed Description Text (5):

The present invention involves a system and method for enabling consumers to register "Wish" list items or items of interest from multiple Service Providers (SPs) over a distributed network. The distributed network may be a unsecured public

network such as the Internet. In accordance with the invention, a third-party gift registry provider provides gift registration services for registered Service Providers via an Online Gift Registry Service, eliminating the need for the Service Providers to handle such matters. To make use of the Online Gift Registry, users and Service Providers initially register with the Online Gift Registrar, and are in-turn provided with the software components needed to make use of the services offered by the registrar. These software components, in combination with the Online Gift Registry Service, preferably provide the following features: 1. A single centralized repository of individual "Wish" list items. 2. A registration system used by the SP to send the items of interest to the Gift Registrar for inclusion in the individual's "Wish" list and to associate the SP as the preferred reseller. 3. A reminder system to be used by registrants for automatic messages triggered by user-defined events. 4. A notification system to be used by Service Providers for automatic system notifications triggered by predefined events. 5. A "Wish" list viewing system that allows for filtering of items based on, but not limited to, such criteria as category, price range, date of entry, or preferred reseller. 6. A communication system to streamline the purchase process for the gift with the registered and desired SP. 7. A special event "Sale" event used by SPs to market to target audiences that have expressed a desire in the item of interest. 8. A system that can be used to perform marketing queries by the registered Service Providers.

Detailed Description Text (45):

In FIG. 8, the potential gift purchaser locates 80 the Gift Registry site 70. The gift purchaser then either locates 210 the desired gift registrant that they desire to purchase a gift for or locates 212 the desired registered occasion. Upon locating the correct gift registrant, the gift purchaser optionally identifies 214 criteria that they wish to use to filter the entire "Wish" list. Some potential criteria may be price range or category or reseller. The Gift Registry site 70 displays 216 the appropriate "Wish" list items for the selected gift registrant. The gift purchaser then selects 218 an item of interest to be shown more detailed information. The alternate path to this point is by the user selecting the event after locating 212 a desired occasion. At this point, the gift purchaser can optionally chose one of two paths. They may either choose 194 the preferred reseller and be re-directed to the preferred reseller site or chose 196 an alternate reseller and be re-directed to the alternate reseller site. Either way, the Gift Registry Site 70 transfers 198 the gift purchase information to the appropriate SP site 60. Since the SP site 60 recognizes that this is Gift Purchaser referred by the Gift Registry site 70, it displays 200 a pre-populated checkout form such as depicted in FIG. 36 with only the item or items of interest that was selected 218 at the Gift Registry site 70. The SP site 60 provides a special posting page for gift purchases from the Gift Registry site 70, which includes the Gift Registry ID of the registrant that a gift is being purchased for. This Gift Registry ID is later used when updating the registrant's wish list with items purchased. For privacy reasons, the Gift Registrant's shipping information will be associated with the order but not displayed to the purchaser. The user then goes through the checkout process of the SP site 60, providing any required billing information and submits their request for purchase. Upon the gift purchase 202, the SP Server Application 62 stores the resulting information in the Gift Purchase Database 66 for latter transmittal to the Gift Registrar 74 by the Gift Registration Agent 68.

Detailed Description Text (61):

Note that the following screen layouts are the minimum functionality for this invention and are not to be construed as the exact layout and functionality of the production system. The screen layouts are categorized below under the basic functions of the system. These screens may also have additional functionality in the production system but will provide the basics for the discussion of the operation of this invention.

Detailed Description Text (67):

In reference to FIG. 14, the process whereby any user, registered or not, may use the Gift Registry site to select and purchase a gift on the "Wish" list of a registered user is shown. After visiting the home page FIG. 15 and clicking on the appropriate link, the user is shown the Gift Recipient Selection Page FIG. 30. This page allows the user to find the appropriate registered user that the gift purchaser wants to purchase the gift for. Upon submitting the query, if there are no gift recipients that match the selected criteria, then the No Gift Registrants Found Page FIG. 31 is displayed. Otherwise, the results of the query are shown on the Gift Registrants Found Page FIG. 32. The Gift Registrants Found Page FIG. 32 may show one or more gift registrants that match the criteria in the above query. If only a single registrant is returned, then the site may bypass this page and go directly to the Gift Registrant Wish List Page FIG. 33. Otherwise, the desired gift registrant must be selected from the list first. On the Gift Registrant Wish List Page FIG. 33, all items on the selected gift registrant's "Wish" list will be shown in a list format for easy viewing. A future embodiment may allow for filtering the results based on criteria such as category, reseller, or price. Another future embodiment may link to an item detail page, where more detailed information on that item and preferred reseller is provided.

Detailed Description Text (90):

The merchant has a more sophisticated notification mechanism as defined in the SP Notification Events Page FIG. 26. On this page, the merchant identifies the method of notification by using the Notification Method Type Drop-down Menu 430 from which they can select from notification methods such as email message and pagers. They will be notified of the event when the condition identified in the Event Type Drop-down menu 435 meets the criteria identified in the Condition Type Drop-down Menu 440 along with its corresponding Condition Value Edit Box 445 for all the items that are associated with the product category identified in the Item Category Drop-down Menu 450.

[Previous Doc](#)

[Next Doc](#)

[Go to Doc#](#)